

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 13-18 remain in the application.

The present invention results from the discovery that reducing the initial amount of data-entry fields displayed for a user and allowing the user to reconfigure the search engine can improve the ease of use and efficiency of patent searching. (Pg. 2, ln. 20 – Pg. 9, ln. 7). It allows a user to customize the menu and associate the user ID with the customized menu so that when a user logs in with the user ID the customized menu is shown. This saves the user time because the user can now access the customized menu immediately instead of having to wade through an unorganized menu with search features that he may not find pertinent or relevant.

In the present invention, a user is authenticated using the user ID input unit 41 and the user ID from the user. (Pg. 19, lns. 24 – 26). As seen in Figure 12, the search category modification unit 44 displays the search categories 203 and the field display unit 43 displays the data-entry fields 202 associated with the user ID. (Pg. 20, lns. 14 – 25). This allows a user to reconfigure the search engine to determine what data entry fields should be displayed. When a user selects a category, the category expands to show the category list 301 and 401 as shown in Figures 14 and 15. As shown in Figure 14, Classification by Law and IPC have been selected, which results in Classification by Law and IPC being displayed as data-entry fields. In Figure 15, when Publication Number and Registration Number have been selected in category list 401 from Numbers in addition to Classification by Law and IPC, the Publication Number and Registration Number are shown as data-entry fields, too. (Pg. 21, ln. 11 – Pg. 22, ln. 8) The user can also save the selected items such that the same items will appear after the user has stopped using the present invention and starts using it again after a period of time as shown in Figure 16. (Pg. 22, ln. 9 – Pg. 23, ln. 5).

As shown in Figure 11, the present invention uses flags which correspond in a one-to-one manner with each data-entry field to determine which data-entry fields are displayed. When a display flag is 1, the corresponding data-entry fields are to be displayed and when the display flag is 0, the corresponding data-entry fields are to be hidden. (Pg. 16, ln. 25 – Pg. 17, ln. 3) Thus, the classifications category has display flags “1100” while the numbers category has display flags “0100001000” as shown in Figures 14 and 15. (Pg. 17, lns. 5 – 15).

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 15, 13, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kraft et al.* (U.S. 6,137,488).

[T]he dispositive question regarding anticipation is whether one skilled in the art would reasonably understand or infer from the prior art reference’s teaching that every claim [limitation] was disclosed in that single reference.

Dayco Prods., Inc. v. Total Containment, Inc., F.3d 1358, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2003).

As seen in Figure 3, *Kraft* teaches the use of a classification field expand key 306, a form expand key 310, and contract buttons 520 and 522, on an initial screen 300. (Col. 9, lns. 54 – 59). When a user clicks on the classification field expand key 306, the classification field expands from no entries being shown to a pull down classification table 400 that includes a number of pre-programmed classification entries. (Col. 10, lns. 2 – 11; Figs. 3, 4). When the user clicks on the form expand key 310, a second field template 500 is added in addition to field template 302. (Col. 11, lns. 1 – 17; Figs 3, 5). When the user clicks on contract buttons 520 or 522, the field templates 302 and 500 can be deleted. (Col. 13, lns. 52 - 66; Figs 3, 5).

Kraft does not teach or suggest “a field information holding unit holding, for each of a plurality of user IDs and search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to patent, field information as display flags that correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user

for entering the search criterion, each display flag indicating whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields.”

Kraft does not teach storing field information as display flags for each of a plurality of user IDs since *Kraft* does not teach using a user ID at all. *Kraft* teaches allowing a user to search through a variety of criteria and editing the composition of the search page, but does not teach that the search page should be presented according to the preferences associated with the user ID. Thus, if a user closes the initial screen 300, then the user has to re-select the classification entries by using the classification field expand key 306 or re-choose more fields by selecting form expand key 310.

Furthermore since *Kraft* does not teach the user of User IDs, it also does not teach that the User IDs should be used in conjunction with the search purposes as seen in the table illustrated on Figure 11 of the present invention. More specifically, *Kraft* does not teach the use of a table at all. In contrast, in the table disclosed in Figure 11 of the present invention, each search purpose corresponding to the User ID has a set of display flags which indicate what to display. For example, the display flags for Type A for User ID 0204111 and search purpose Idea Generation should be 0000, but the display flags for Type A for the same User ID but a different search purpose Before Filing has flags 11000. Likewise, the display flags for Type A for a different User ID 0204212 for search purpose Idea Generation should be 0111. Thus each set of display flags correspond to not only the search purpose, but also the User ID in conjunction with each other.

Also, as can be seen in Figures 3 and 5 of *Kraft*, neither the classification field expand key 306, the form expand key 310, nor contract buttons 520 or 522 are the display flags of the present invention because they do not correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by

the user for entering the search criterion with each display flag indicating whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields.

The classification field expand key 306 are not display flags because it does not have a one-to-one relationship with pre-programmed classification entries. When the user clicks on classification field expand key 306, it displays a pull down classification table 400 that includes a number of pre-programmed classification entry as opposed to only a single pre-programmed classification entry. (Col. 10, lns. 2 – 11; Figs. 3, 4). Furthermore, the pull down classification table 400 as a whole cannot be considered a data entry field because the in the present invention, the data-entry fields are “to be used by the user for entering the search criterion.” The user does not enter data into the pull down classification table 400 as a whole.

Form expand key 310 are not display flags because it does not have a one-to-one relationship with the data-entry fields since the user clicks on the same form expand key 310 to add field templates such as field template 500. When the user clicks on the form expand key 310, a second field template 500 is added in addition to field template 302. (Col. 11, lns. 1 – 17; Figs 3, 5). Thus, multiple field templates are associated with form expand key 310. Also, there is no indication that field templates are data entry fields since the data entry fields in the present invention are “to be used by the user for entering the search criterion.” In *Kraft*, field template 302 does not allow a user to enter data since only second field template 500 has data-entry field 506. (Fig. 5)

In addition, contract buttons 520 or 522 are not display flags because they do not have a one-to-one relationship with data-entry fields. Contract buttons 520 or 522 appear only when a form has been expanded to include more than one field template. (Col. 13, lns. 53 – 56). Thus, if there is only one field template available, then contract button 520 or 522 does not appear and

thus it is not associated with the field template. Furthermore, even if there is more than one field template displayed, while each contract button 520 or 522 appears to be associated with an individual field template, not every field template allows data entry. As seen in Figure 5, it appears that only one field template allows data entry while the rest do not. Furthermore as seen in Figure 7, there may be instances where there is no data entry permitted. However, the present invention recites that each display flag indicates “whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields” and data-entry fields are “to be used by the user for entering the search criterion.”

In contrast, the present invention uses flags which correspond in a one-to-one manner with each data-entry field to determine which data-entry fields are displayed. When a display flag is 1, the corresponding data-entry fields are to be displayed and when the display flag is 0, the corresponding data-entry fields are to be hidden. (Pg. 16, ln. 25 – Pg. 17, ln. 3) Thus, for example, for User Id 0204111 and for search purpose as seen in Figure 11 and 14, the classifications category indicated by “Type A” with “1100” indicates that “Classifications by Law” and “IPC” are displayed while “FI” and “F” Term are not displayed. Also, the numbers category indicated by “Type B” has display flags “0100001000” which indicates that “Publication Number” and “Registration Number” are displayed while “Application Number,” “International Application Number,” International publication Number,” “Unexamined Patent Publication Number,” “Examined Patent Publication Number,” “Priority Number,” “Related Application Number,” “and Number of “Appeal” are not displayed. (Pg. 17, lns. 5 – 15). Furthermore, the display flags can be saved, so that when a user returns a while later, he can have the same data-entry fields displayed. (Pg. 22, ln. 9 – Pg. 23, ln. 5)

Kraft also fails to disclose “a category receiving unit receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more categories from the list of the categories a user ID of the user.” *Kraft* does not teach receiving a user ID from the user.

In contrast, in the present invention, a user is authenticated using the user ID input unit 41 and the user ID from the user. (Pg. 19, lns. 24 – 26).

Kraft also does not recite “a field display unit displaying, in accordance with the field information, the data-entry fields for which the display flags for the user ID have been set, and not displaying the data-entry fields for which the display flags for the user ID have been cleared.” *Kraft* does not teach displaying data entry fields based on whether the flags have been set or not. If classification field expand key 306 is the display flag, then classification field 304 is the data-entry field. However, when a user clicks on classification field expand key 306, a classification table 400 with a plurality of classifications is displayed where a user can select a single classification. However, the single classification that is selected does not correspond in a one-to-one relationship with the classification field expand key. Furthermore, the exact classification that is displayed is not correlated with the classification field expand key. That is, when the user clicks on classification field expand key 306, a specific classification field is not automatically displayed. Instead, the user must individually select which of the classification fields in the classification table 400 that the user wishes to display.

Expand key 310 and contract button 520 individually are not display flags because expand key 310 only serves to add template fields while contract button 520 only serves to delete template fields. Thus, neither button individually can be considered a display flag because the expand key 310 clearly has no clearance function and contract button 520 clearly has no display function. Furthermore, even if expand key 310 and contract button 520 are considered together,

however improperly and despite the fact that they represent two different buttons, the hypothetical combination would still not be the display flags. Expand key 310 and contract button 520 relate to displaying and removing template fields. However, the template fields they add are not display fields because there is no indication that all of them can have data entered into them. In the present invention, data-entry fields are “to be used by the user for entering the search criterion.” Furthermore, if there is only one template field available, then there are no contract buttons displayed. (Col. 13, lns. 54 – 66).

All arguments for patentability with respect to Claim 1 is repeated and incorporated herein for Claims 13 and 14.

With respect to Claim 16, *Kraft* fails to teach or suggest “the field receiving unit receives from the user, a selection of two or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list.” *Kraft* allows various classifications to be used such as description 402 and title 502. In *Kraft* the user can search by entering text into the single data field 506 and allowing it to search in multiple classifications based on the text entered into the single data field. For example if the user enters “ABC” the user can search in Description AND Title or Description OR Title or Description AND NOT Title with the text “ABC.” (Col. 11, lns. 8 – 52). However, there is only one data field 506 and thus there is at most one data-entry field despite the display of numerous classifications since the data-entry field as defined in the present invention are “to be used by the user for entering the search criterion.” In *Kraft*, the user only enters the search criterion in one box.

In contrast, the present invention uses multiple data-entry fields as seen in Figure 12. In Figure 12, data entry fields 202 shows a data entry field for “Date of Publication of Application,”

“Applicant,” “Title of the Invention,” and “Full Text,” each of which has its own text box to allow a user to individually enter data into each of the data-entry fields.

The Office Action rejected Claim 17 as being unpatentable over *Kraft* in view of *Dasan* (U.S. 5,761,662).

Dasan is an automatic method and system for retrieving information based on a user-defined profile such as a personalized newspaper. (Abstract) In *Dasan*, the user selects which categories or types of information he wants to receive and the server then automatically and periodically sends him the information the user requests to the user. (Col. 2, lns. 1 – 53).

The Office Action admits that *Kraft* does not teach or suggest “a user ID input unit to accept a user ID wherein the display flags are associated with the user ID such that the display flags are preserved when the user ID is accepted at a subsequent period of time.”

However, *Dasan* also does not teach or suggest “a user ID input unit to accept a user ID wherein the display flags are associated with the user ID such that the display flags are preserved when the user ID is accepted at a subsequent period of time.” *Dasan* may accept user IDs, but there is no indication that it associates display flags with the user ID. In the present invention, display flags “correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion” wherein “the data-entry fields for which the display flags for the user ID have been set” are displayed while “the data-entry fields for which the display flags for the user ID have been cleared” are not displayed. In *Dasan*, the user IDs merely correlate with a preference for which news the server should send to the user such as if he wants news in a certain geographic location or if he wants news regarding a certain sports team as opposed to a preference for displaying search boxes. In Figure 8, the data-entry fields are field 802, 804, 806,

808, and 810. However, there is no indication that *Dasan* remembers which of these data-entry fields to display based on display flags.

That is, in Figure 8, *Dasan* may remember that a search should be conducted (1) in “Name the topic of interest is” using the text “News about Sun”; (2) in “Keywords to look for” using the logic “Sun Microsystems | SMCC | SunSoft”; (3) that this should be done by case sensitive search; and (4) in “Headlines News,” “Businesswire,” “Commodity Markets,” and “Business and Finance News,” but there is no indication that there are any sort of flags to determine whether to display “Name the topic of interest” field 802, the “Keywords to look for” field 804 the “case insensitive” and “case sensitive” buttons 806 and 808, or the field 810 displaying newspaper titles.

In contrast in the present invention, the data entry fields 202 are dynamic and are displayed based on the display flags as seen in Figures 11 – 14. Furthermore, the display flags can be saved, so that when a user returns a while later, he can have the same data-entry fields displayed. (Pg. 22, ln. 9 – Pg. 23, ln. 5).

The Office Action rejected Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Kraft* in view of *Lee* (U.S. 6,694,331).

The Office Action cited to Claim 2 in *Lee* for the features of the present invention. However, *Lee* does not disclose that the data-entry field should include an “International Publication Number” or an “Unexamined Patent Publication Number.” *Lee* disclose that there is a publication number but makes no distinction between a Publication Number or an International Publication Number. This feature of the present invention is useful, for example, if a user wants to have the ability not only to search in national patent databases for country specific patents but also to search in international patent databases for international patents. Furthermore, *Lee* only

disclose the use of a Patent Publication Number but does not disclose the user of an Unexamined Patent Publication Number. Again, in some countries unexamined patents receive a publication number. *Lee's* approach leaves the user unable to search for such patents in a specific manner.

The Office Action rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Kraft* in view of *Dashan* and *Kasahara et al.* (U.S. 5,123,088).

With respect to Claim 18, neither *Kraft*, *Dashan*, or *Kasahara* disclose “wherein the display flags have a value of 1 if the display flags have been set, and the display flags have a value of 0 if the display flags have been cleared.”

Kasahara teaches that if a flag of the navigator information is “1” then the navigator information is a navigator to the representative image information unit and it is displayed in one of the upper small windows W1 shown in Figure 3. However, if the flag is “0” then it is determined that the navigator information is a navigator of the adjoining image information units related by the property links and it is displayed in one of the lower small windows W2. (Col. 7, lns. 56 – 65). However, in the present invention if the display flag has a value of 1, then the display flag has been set and the “field list display unit [displays] a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields.” Conversely, if the display flag has a value of 0, and does not display “a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected.”

Furthermore, even if *Kasahara* were combined with *Dashan* and *Kraft*, the resulting hypothetical combination would not have the features of the present invention. Notably in *Kraft* the only possible display flags are expand key 306, form expand key 310, and contract button 522. However, neither of these keys and/or buttons can be represented as a 1 or 0 since they are keys/buttons and not numerical values.

Dependent Claim 5 and 15 – 18 depend from and further limits Claim 1 and are allowable, too.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed phone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Price', is written over a horizontal line.

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